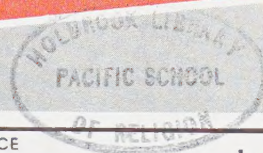




Social Action

NEWS LETTER



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EX-OFFICIAL HEADS DISCIPLE PENAL AND PAROLE PROGRAM

A program to encourage local churches to take an active interest in penal and parole problems has been established by the UCMS's Department of Christian Action and Community Service. Vance Thomas, former federal and state prison and parole official, will head the new work as a part of the expanded program of Mrs. Ruth E. Milner, Executive Director of Social Welfare services.

In announcing the new program the department said that one of the most neglected areas of special ministries to persons with special needs is work with the prison parolee. The Department said we "hope to inaugurate the program by developing a pilot project among our churches in Indianapolis." The minister and several laymen from six area churches are being asked to participate in a training program in preparation for their ministry to the prison parolee. The training program is scheduled to start in February and the actual ministry to parolees shortly thereafter.

Mr. Thomas, a life-long Disciple, recently retired after 25 years of experience
(Continued on page 7)



Mrs. Ruth Milner and Mr. Vance Thomas

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL SPEAKS ON SOCIAL ISSUES

"What is the force or authority of an action of an Assembly (of the National Council of Churches) upon a church or upon an individual member," the Council asked itself as it met for its Fourth Triennial Assembly in San Francisco a few weeks ago. The answer? "... precisely the status and weight of being actions of such a *representative assembly*: no more, no less." The emphasis, it was agreed, was on the words *representative assembly*. After thus defining its understanding of its pronouncements and resolutions, the assembly took action on a number of significant social issues.

Several resolutions pointed to specific and immediate concerns. One called upon the churches, the government, and the Central Department of Church World Service and the Division of Home Missions of the National Council to give immediate attention to the plight of Cuban refugees coming into Florida and other parts of the U. S. (already an office under National Council Administration is being set up in Miami, Florida, to implement this resolution).

New Orleans Violence

A second resolution dealing with *Violence in New Orleans* expressed "prayerful concern" for the people in New Orleans facing rising hysteria and mob violence. It commended those who like Reverend Lloyd Foreman and Mr. and Mrs. James Gabrielle ... at great personal risk ... stood firm ... in the Judeo-Christian and historic American traditions which uphold the dignity and worth of every individual. It also commended the public school authorities and teachers and urged "the State of Louisiana and the city of New Orleans to bring their policies and

(Continued on page 7)



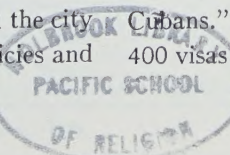
ELLA WILLIAMS NAMED TO U.S. CUBAN REFUGEE POST

Named by Church World Service to coordinate Protestant efforts in the U. S. Cuban Refugee Resettlement Program was Miss Ella L. Williams, director of Relief and Rehabilitation Services for the Disciples of Christ. She will work with Mr. Tracey Voorhees who was named by President Eisenhower to investigate the plight of some 40,000 Refugees from Castro's Cuba now residing in Florida.

Nation-Wide Effort Planned

Miss Williams' service in the Cuban emergency was symbolic of an all-out effort being planned by religious and governmental agencies to meet the present refugee crises, similar in many ways to the flight of the Hungarian Freedom fighters in 1956. This time, however, the United States is the country of first asylum for those fleeing their homeland because of fear of political reprisal. As U. S. private and public agencies made plans they were taking into account reports that "The United States consulate in Havana has a registry of 50,000 visa applications from Cubans." In late November an estimated 400 visas daily were being issued although

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THE LIBERAL ROLE IN THE PRESENT CRISIS

Cuba, Louisiana, Congo, Algeria, Mississippi . . . Needed, a vocal, role-conscious, aggressive liberalism. Ours is a day of extremes, of integrationists or segregationists, traitors or 100 per cent Americans, pacifists or militarists, capitalists or communists, egg heads or bone heads. It is a day when the vast majority of people in the world find themselves squeezed in a political and economic vise between radical experimentalism and hide-bound reaction. Everything is either black or white. One must be prepared to have his daughter marry a Caucasian or else join the Negro equivalent of the White Citizens' Council. Either he is allied with America and the West or with Russia and the East—no middle ground.

The Uncommitted Middle

Now in truth the great majority of people in our world belong to "an uncommitted middle." They do not really belong to either of the extremes presented to them in most situations for they simply have not made up their minds. In addition there are those, who having committed themselves to certain positions on economic, political, and social issues, yet find little in common with the extremes presented by the vocal and militant leadership of either the left or the right.

Unfortunately both the "uncommitted middle" and the committed but moderate middle find themselves leaderless and without spokesmen. In such a day an aggressive, vocal, role-conscious liberal movement may well make the difference between the complete destruction of civ-

ilization and the achievement of a new cultural pattern that offers mankind possibilities for goodness he has not even dreamed of as yet.

But what is this aggressive, vocal, role-conscious liberalism? Neutralism, perhaps? Middle-of-the-roadism? A plague on both your houses? Not so! Progressivism, then? Socialism in sheep's clothing—the grey flannel suit, that is? Again, not so! What's left, libertarianism? The well meaning, individualistic conservatism that characterizes so many of our ministers and businessmen? Again and again, no! Liberalism is not to be identified by its distance from either left or right. It is conceivable that in certain situations its political or social program might be almost identical with *either* the radical left or reactionary right. Not likely, but conceivable.

The Liberal Tradition

So, then, this aggressive, vocal, role-conscious liberalism is not a position or a program or an ideology. What then is it? As liberalism per se it is an attitude or a mood. It is an attitude of objectivity, rationality, and tolerance. As such it places a very high premium upon free discussion and communication. As such it is extremely suspicious of violence as a way of achieving social goals. It is also a set of values. It has a very great concern for the growth of persons—not just persons in mass, not just society, but concrete, individual, human persons. It is also a way of approaching problems. Traditionally it has been a reform movement. It has assumed a changing world and with it the necessity of reforming social institutions and practices to provide for a maximum opportunity for the development of the inherent capacities of men.

This brings us to the qualifying adjectives—vocal, role-conscious and aggressive. To what sort of liberalism do these words point? To speak of liberalism as vocal means that it should articulate its nature and its genius in such fashion that the man-in-the-middle begins to understand that there may be political and economic and social positions other than those of the "stuck-in-the-mud," the mug-

wump or the utopian. It means further that the man in the street, simply because he hears the word liberalism used frequently enough, begins to understand it as a valid, intellectually respectable approach to the problems of life. It means still further that liberals need to stop talking only to liberals and to take their case in common sense language to the man in the street.

Role-Conscious Liberalism

To speak of liberalism as role-conscious means that the liberal must see himself as possessing a *special role* in the midst of a revolutionary world situation. It means that the liberal begins to see himself as the sliding weight moving back and forth along the beam of the scales of progress until it determines the precise point at which the scales are tilted and maximum reform achieved. It means that by insisting on his right *not to be* categorized, pigeonholed and classified he raises a flag around which many sincere, earnest, well-meaning but unsophisticated men-in-the-middle may gather. Many such persons who would like to speak out for justice and sanity in a day of slogans, oversimplifications and fanaticism would be grateful to find a community of kindred spirits with whom they could unite on specific issues.

The liberal standing ground must be clearly defined and large enough to accommodate men of varying persuasions who are seeking to find the point of balance upon which they may take action in particular situations. To speak of liberalism then as role-conscious means that it sees itself as playing a special balancing role in social change; on the one hand seeking to prevent social cataclysms with their attendant human misery, but on the other pushing the process of social reform along at the maximum speed possible.

But an aggressive liberalism? Is this not a contradiction in terms. Liberalism is sane, balanced, objective, tolerant, rational. How can it also be aggressive? Simply by taking account of the time factor in our situation, *by insisting that change must have a time table*; by encouraging conversation among the members of its fellowship concerning the nature of the decisions before us in today's world and then insisting that *some* action must even-

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SOCIAL ACTION NEWS-LETTER

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WHAT'S AHEAD FOR CONGRESS IN 1961?

Here is a summary of a discussion by FCNL staff in early December on issues before Congress in 1961:

Question: What will be some of the major issues in the new Congress of interest to our readers?

Answer: Major issues include: revising Senate and House rules so that social and humanitarian legislation will receive adequate consideration; increasing U.S. efforts toward world disarmament; and strengthening the UN. The proposed Youth Peace Corps has captured the imagination of people, and will certainly be discussed by Congress. Foreign aid programs will be back again. The coming expiration of P.L. 480 raises the whole question of what the United States should do with its agricultural abundance. Congress will also have to wrestle with the migrant labor issue—a very controversial and complex subject—on which legislators postponed action last year. Civil rights and civil liberties bills will also be back again.

President-elect Kennedy has indicated he will press for a new minimum wage law, medical care for the aged, redevelopment programs for depressed areas, and more aid for education and housing.

Disarmament Issues

Q.: What's going to happen in the disarmament field?

A.: One of the first questions before the Senate will be whether to continue the Subcommittee on Disarmament beyond January 31, 1961. This special subcommittee now has its own staff and separate budget. From our (FCNL's) point of view it would be helpful to have that subcommittee both extended and expanded so it can continue to hold hearings, issue reports and study complex disarmament issues.

Congress will also need to appropriate much larger sums for disarmament if the President-elect's campaign pledges are to be implemented. Last spring, he proposed that the United States establish an Arms Control Research Institute and greatly expand disarmament efforts of the Department of State.

Q.: What about sharing nuclear weapons with allies?

A.: One of the first issues which is going to face the Kennedy Administration is whether it should support or oppose the previous Administration's proposal to

supply NATO with nuclear submarines and missiles. This, in our view would be a very dangerous move. It would require changing the Atomic Energy Act more than Congress was willing to do in 1958. By further dispersing nuclear weapons, it would increase the possibilities of accidental war. It would be another step toward giving other nations—such as Germany, Greece, and Turkey, complete control over nuclear weapons. This would increase the difficulty of controlling, and eventually eliminating nuclear armaments.

Q.: Why the pressure for expanding the nuclear club?

A.: It originated as a reaction to the launching of the first Sputnik in the fall of 1957. The Administration felt then that it would be necessary to transfer nuclear weapons to U.S. allies in order to counteract the Soviet achievement. Now it is argued that if countries like France and Germany have some share in controlling the use of nuclear weapons through NATO, they won't feel compelled to develop their own nuclear force.

Yet, despite the U.S. offer, France has just completed plans for an independent striking force. The Germans have "welcomed" the U.S. proposal, but some of the other NATO powers have reacted "coolly".

Q.: How would the Soviet Union react to establishment of a nuclear force under NATO?

A.: Some people fear that this might cause the Soviets to equip its allies with nuclear arms. The U.S. decision on this issue will be very crucial. It will indicate whether the President-elect thinks the spread of nuclear weapons can be controlled.

Q.: Will the Senate ratify a nuclear weapons test ban this year?

A.: We all hope that there will be a test ban treaty before the Senate by mid-summer, and Senators should be encouraged to begin to think in terms of approving such a treaty. But first, the Kennedy Administration should be urged to make every effort to get the nuclear test ban negotiations off "dead center" and resume general disarmament negotiations with the Soviet Union.

U.S.-UN Relations

Q.: How could Congress strengthen the UN in 1961?

A.: The Senate could repeal the "self-judging" reservation which enables the United States to determine whether a case involving it comes within the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice. Last year the Foreign Relations Committee postponed action because members were afraid that the proposal would be defeated on the floor. The Senate may act this session since 1961 is an off-election year and public support for the World Court is growing.

Congress could also increase financial contributions to UN refugee and technical assistance programs. The United States has generously supported UN agencies in the past, but Congress has urged a percentage limitation to restrict the amount of aid given to any one program. One reason the UN Congo operation is near bankruptcy is because Congress placed a 40% limitation on U.S. support of the Congo operation, at the end of the last session. Special donations to the more important UN programs above regular percentage contributions might well be permitted.

Q.: Could Congress express any opinion regarding the UN emergency forces?

A.: Yes, the House and Senate might reenact another resolution supporting the formation of an international force. They might recommend that this force consist of persons individually recruited, instead of national contingents. We have seen in the Congo some of the problems that arise when national contingents have divided loyalties between the countries whose uniforms they wear and the United Nations, whose policy they are supposed to be carrying out. A UN force ought to have special orientation, training and equipment to control potentially explosive situations without violence.

U.S.-China Relations

Q.: How could Congress help bring about better relations with the People's Republic of China?

A.: Congress could encourage the new Administration to take another look at U.S. China policy, and see how the United States can begin to adjust to the fact that Communist China may be admitted to the UN in the near future, possibly September 1961. Even our closest allies, such as Great Britain, favor UN seating of Mainland China.

As a start the Kennedy Administration might indicate to the Communist Chinese in the negotiations at Warsaw that the United States desires to find a way to ease the very strained relations between the two countries.

Q.: Didn't Senator Kennedy suggest in June of 1960 that the People's Republic of China might somehow be brought into the nuclear test ban talks at Geneva?

A.: Yes, and this might be done immediately. In February, negotiators will be talking about representa-

"Good Heavens — That Stuff Is Dangerous!"



tion on the Control Commission and the location of inspection stations in all parts of the world, including Mainland China.

Congress might also encourage more cultural contacts with China, a new try at exchanging newsmen, and easing of restrictions on non-military trade with the Chinese mainland. There are many business interests on the West Coast which see considerable advantage in trade with China. Other countries, such as Japan, are interested in exploring the possibility of resuming large-scale trade with China but have refrained from doing so because of U.S. opposition. Congress could encourage the new Administration to withdraw this opposition.

Youth Peace Corps

Q.: What will happen to the Peace Corps Senator Kennedy supported toward the end of his campaign?

A.: This idea has certainly stirred the interest of many, many people across the country, especially on college campuses. Their enthusiasm indicates that people have been yearning for some constructive way to deal with the problems that confront us in underdeveloped countries. There's definitely going to be legislative consideration of this in 1961.

It is very important that this Corps be an expression of humanitarian concern and not another cold war instru-

ment. It should not be tied in any sense to the military draft, but open to both men and women, with training in the language and culture of the countries to which they're going.

Economic Aid and Nutritional Aid

Q.: What about the foreign aid program?

A.: The new Administration is on record as favoring a large Mutual Security Program, but Congress tends to cut the program, especially when times are hard, and there is a general feeling that "we should take care of our own." Furthermore, Congress is concerned about balance of payments difficulties, and this may lead to additional cuts.

The old questions are still with us. Is the program adequate?—it runs about \$4 billion a year. Are funds properly allocated?—about two-thirds of the total is military or defense-related. What are the effects of short term financing on the Development Loan Fund? How much aid should be distributed through multi-lateral programs?

The misuse of military aid to maintain dictators in such countries as South Korea and "internal security" in Algeria, combined with concern over the balance of payments, may cause Congress to review the whole military aid and overseas base program.

Q.: What will Congress do to meet the challenge presented by our agricultural surpluses?

A.: This issue will be vigorously debated when Congress takes up proposals to extend P.L. 480, the agricultural disposal act, beyond the end of 1961. Many feel that the United States needs to broaden its frame of reference on this question of America's agricultural "surpluses". We should stop thinking of our agricultural abundance as a curse and a handicap. We should start thinking of it as a blessing which will help us meet the nutritional needs of that two thirds of the world's population that goes to bed hungry each night. However, if U.S. taxpayers are going to continue subsidizing American agriculture—they would do well to subsidize foods that are needed. For example, the Far East needs dried milk, fats and oils, and more rice instead of wheat.

Q.: But isn't there a real problem of upsetting world markets through such a program?

A.: Yes, and that is why Congress should support efforts to place food distribution programs under an expanded UN Food and Agriculture Organization. If this is done, nations which have the capacity to produce surpluses and nations that are needy can work out ways and means of utilizing this agricultural abundance so as not to disturb normal commercial relations. That won't be easy to do, but it's certainly within the capacity of man to do a better job than he has in the past. President-elect Kennedy's recent appointment of former Rep. George S. McGovern to direct the U.S.

Food-for-Peace program is a step in the right direction. Rep. McGovern is a long time supporter of the Food-for-Peace concept.

Human Rights

Q.: What's ahead in the field of civil rights?

A.: "Very little legislation but considerable action in the Executive Branch" is the answer we hear around Washington. Since Southerners chair many of the committees through which education, health and welfare legislation must pass, there is little desire to engage in a bitter civil rights battle this year. It's thought that much can be done through Presidential action under existing laws in the field of voting, housing, education and unemployment.

Q.: Will civil liberties issues be active in 1961?

A.: Proposals to abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee will be one of the most controversial issues. A committee film, "Operation Abolition", is being distributed widely by a commercial firm. It is charged that the film misrepresents the facts concerning student demonstrations against the Committee in San Francisco. The *Washington Post* has editorially called it "Forgery by Film".

Undoubtedly, bills to make the **passport laws** more restrictive will be introduced again. Pressure from prosecuting attorneys is likely to stimulate efforts to legalize state **wiretapping**. There will probably be new efforts to delete the **loyalty oath** from the National Defense Education Act. The question of **obscene literature** and censorship will most certainly be discussed. Bills are likely to be introduced to set up a "**Freedom Academy**" to fight a "total political war."

Q.: What about greater protection for migratory agricultural workers?

A.: This will come up when Congress debates proposals to extend the Mexican Farm Labor Importation Act. A bitter fight is anticipated over whether or not the Secretary of Labor should be given authority to set standards for the employment of Mexican workers. This would eliminate the possibility of the importation program being used to perpetuate inadequate wage and living conditions for domestic labor.



FCNL staff—Raymond Wilson, Connie Longshore, Frances Neely, and Edward Snyder—preparing this Newsletter.

P.S. from the Hill

■ The idea of a **Youth Peace Corps** is receiving much behind-the-scenes consideration here in Washington. Activity centers around a \$10,000 study by the Colorado State University Research Foundation headed by Maurice Albertson. The Albertson group is working against a February 15 deadline for proposed legislation and a May 1 deadline for their final report.

On December 20 Congressman Henry S. Reuss called together over 70 people to share their experience and thinking on a Point Four Youth Corps. On December 16 a 3½ hour roundtable at the Point Four Conference also discussed the subject. Raymond Wilson chaired the former, Edward Snyder the latter.

Some present thinking about the program: It might include a three-pronged approach—federal funds to step up programs by the voluntary agencies; financial help for a UN program; a U.S. government program beginning with pilot projects, ultimately including thousands. Emphasis has been placed on the need for extremely careful selection, orientation and training. Members would serve only in countries which requested them. There is considerable agreement that the Selective Service law shouldn't be amended, that administrative action could provide an exemption.

■ **A significant foreign aid conference**, held in Washington December 15 and 16, provided an unusual opportunity for government and non-government people to discuss key issues in the foreign aid field, during the period when the new Administration's policies are being formed. The Conference was initiated by the Point Four Information Service in which FCNL and other church, farm, labor, veterans, women's and civic groups participate. Participants agreed that both bilateral and multilateral programs are needed; that UN

programs should be strengthened; that lack of trained manpower is the chief problem; that much greater emphasis must be placed on social, political and cultural progress since increased industrial production is not an end in itself.

Gleanings: Under Secretary of State-designate, Chester Bowles, asked Americans to recognize that land reform is imperative but very complicated. It has been accomplished democratically in just two countries in this century—Mexico and Czechoslovakia . . . The Educational Needs Panel debated ways of curtailing "cultural colonialism" in overseas programs since Westerners who teach in foreign cultures tend to impose their own values upon students . . . Government officials lamented the inability of social scientists to agree upon priorities for social reform. The experts can't decide whether education should come before sanitation or sanitation before housing . . . Paul Hoffman, UN Special Fund Director, said that industrial areas should stop considering aid as "charity". And newly emergent areas must resist the tendency to assume that "exploitation" by colonial powers entitles them to a free ride into the industrial age.

■ **FCNL Annual Meeting:** After close scrutiny and constructive criticism, the Policy Statement was approved at the Annual Meeting, December 9-11. Committee members agreed that the staff should devote its major efforts in 1961 to promoting world disarmament under law, strengthening the UN, meeting human needs, and advancing human rights. Specific targets for 1961 include: conclusion of a nuclear test ban treaty; resumption of general disarmament negotiations; ending nuclear weapons sharing; repeal of the Connally amendment; establishment of a Point Four Youth Corps; better use of agricultural surpluses; and improved conditions for migrant labor. Copies of this 1961-62 Statement are available from FCNL. The Annual Meeting further approved a letter to President-elect Kennedy, with eleven suggestions for disarmament activities by the President in 1961.

PENAL AND PAROLE

(Continued from page 1)

in the rehabilitative phases of corrections. He began his professional career by serving seven years as chief parole officer and social worker with the Federal Bureau of Prisons. He also served five years as Superintendent of the State Correction School for Negro Boys of the State of Maryland; and ten years as sociologist and counselor at the Young Men's Reformatory at Ionia, Michigan. Mr. Thomas is a past president of the Michigan Probation, Prison and Parole Association.

Penal Commission Started

Establishment of the new penal and parole program for the churches came concurrently with the announcement of a Commission on Penal and Parole Treatment. Mr. Thomas will serve as chairman of the Commission which will include in its membership: judges, social workers, educators, lawyers, institution administrators and religious leaders. While the Commission is in the process of formation, an ad-hoc group of a half dozen professional people are working with Mr. Thomas on the new program.

Areas of Work

Mr. Thomas, speaking for the Commission, said the Indianapolis Pilot project would concentrate on parole problems even though "in the chronology treatment programs, this occurs last." Mr. Thomas explained that parole is probably the most practical field of work to which we may address ourselves. Every month of the year there are numerous parole-releasees coming out of every institution of the State. The demand for jobs is never-ending. The Commission hopes that eventually churches also may deal with pre-delinquency, probation and prison treatment.

National Program Planned

If the Indianapolis pilot project proves successful it is hoped that similar projects may be started throughout the country. The penal and parole program is a Decade of Decision project of the department.

NATIONAL COUNCIL

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practices into accord with the dictates of Christ-like conscience and the law of the land."

The Council also spoke out for "adequate public assistance for all needy people"; the elimination of state and local residence requirements for public assistance, the prevention of "discrimination against children because of the circumstances of their birth." It also spoke on behalf of the plight of *Agricultural Migratory Workers* favoring "extending to them by law the right of collective bargaining." It also extended its greetings to President-Elect John F. Kennedy and Vice-President-Elect Lyndon B. Johnson.

Long Term Resolutions

Favorable action was also taken by the Council on several other resolutions much more comprehensive and general in their approach but in many ways much more significant in their import. One of these dealt with *Christian Responsibility for World Community* spelling out carefully the churches' involvement in and responsibility to support the purposes of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, such as the International Court of Justice. A second resolution dealt with *Ethical Issues in the International Age of Agriculture*. A third considered *The Church and The Employment of Young Workers*. A fourth spoke out concerning *Christian Influence Toward the Development and Use of All Labor Resources Without Regard to Race, Color, Religion or National Origin*.

No sketchy summary of these statements can possibly suggest their real significance. Suffice it to say the National Council has in these documents provided the churches, carefully reasoned, well-informed and deeply moral challenges to guide their thought and action in their community life.

THE LIBERAL ROLE IN THE PRESENT CRISIS

(Continued from page 2)

tuate from the discussions. Once liberalism has determined the directions to which it is committed on a particular issue, then aggressive liberalism begins to push for a decision as to action to be taken and time tables for the achievement of goals.

BARTON HUNTER

ELLA WILLIAMS

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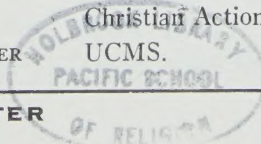
this number dropped shortly thereafter to around fifty to one hundred daily. It was estimated that about 1,000 Cubans were coming to Florida each week.

CWS officials state that approximately 85 per cent of the Cuban refugees are Roman Catholic but emphasized that "we must minister to those of Protestant confession as well as those with no formal religious identification." Roman Catholic leaders already have established both local and national programs to minister to refugees of their faith.

President Eisenhower has made available \$1,000,000 for Cuban refugee work from Mutual Security Funds. Mr. Voorhees said this money would be used in three primary areas: (1) Interstate resettlement of Cuban refugees, such resettlement to be organized and operated through national voluntary agencies; (2) Further staff and support for the registry of the refugees so that both government and private agencies may have a more precise idea of the size of the problem and the basic needs of the refugees; and (3) special assistance for unaccompanied children.

Major Responsibility for Churches

While Dade County, Florida, welfare officials will assume major responsibility for emergency relief needs, religious agencies are expected to do the resettlement job. Of the initial 1,200 refugees interviewed by the Florida State Employment Bureau, 900 indicated willingness to resettle to areas with employment. CWS reports that "Mr. Voorhees confidently expects the national voluntary agencies to respond to the Cuban refugee as they did to the Hungarian Freedom Fighter." Disciples of Christ churches wishing information about the Cuban resettlement and relief program should write Miss Ella L. Williams, 222 S. Downey Avenue, Indianapolis 7, Indiana. Her work is supported by Week of Compassion funds, and administered through the Department of Christian Action and Community Service, UCMS.





When Your Committee Meets-

The Committee on Christian Action and Community Service in your church may find suggestions and help from the following list of events, projects and resources:

CHURCHES URGED TO STUDY ALCOHOL RESOLUTION FOR '61

Brotherhood churches will have an opportunity to help write a resolution on Alcohol Problems to be presented to the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) at Kansas City, September 29-October 4, 1961. Announcement of the proposed resolution was made by the Department of Christian Action and Community Service, UCMS, which said that a questionnaire would be submitted to the churches in an attempt to obtain information from the grass roots on attitudes of Disciples towards alcohol problems.

Answering the Questionnaire

The questionnaire was seen by the department as a part of a larger program of study and action in the field of alcohol education. When the questionnaire is ready for distribution sometime in February, local church departments of Christian Action and Community Service are urged: (1) to establish some process in the local church whereby the questionnaire is answered in a manner that reflects the views of the congregation in an objective manner; and (2) if possible have some group within the church take on the study of alcohol problems as a special assignment and part of the questionnaire answering process. The questionnaire will be sent to all ministers and chairmen of social action departments. Responses to the questionnaire must be completed by May 15. These responses then will be used as a guide by UCMS's Department of Christian Action and Community Service in writing the resolution which will be presented at Kansas City.

Alcohol Study Program

If the local social action department decides on an alcohol study program, this probably should take place during March and April. This will permit either an or-

ganized group within the church or a special alcohol study class to consider in depth many of the issues arising from the manufacture, sale and use of alcoholic beverages.

Groups planning a study of alcohol problems in preparation for responding to the questionnaire will find excellent background material in the Round Table Discussion Packet entitled "The Christian and Alcohol." Included in the packet is a suggested study outline, several full length books on the physical and psychological aspects of alcohol, plus a number of leaflets and booklets dealing with specialized areas. The packet is packed with facts and may be purchased for \$2.50 from the Christian Board of Publication, Box 179, St. Louis 66, Mo.

Resolution Subject Matter

The questionnaire and proposed resolution will deal with the following alcohol problem areas: (1) social and cultural factors; (2) Biblical and theological considerations; (3) ethical approaches to specific problems; (4) goals for society and a basis for political and social action; (5) an education program for the churches; and (6) training and research programs. Plan now for a study program when you receive this resolution-questionnaire.

RESOURCE MATERIALS FOR ALCOHOL STUDY PROGRAM

The local church committee planning an alcohol study program will want to first become familiar with the best possible background materials in the field. Locally good materials may be available through your library, AA chapter, or county or state commission on alcoholism.

In addition to local resources the following books and pamphlets will be particularly helpful:

****Resource Lists of Temperance Materials,** The Methodist Board of Temperance, 100 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington 2, D. C. Free. The most comprehensive list available of books, dramas, pamphlets, leaflets and audio-visuals in the temperance and related fields.

****Basic Information on Alcohol** by Albion Roy King, Cornell College Press, Mount Vernon, Iowa, \$1.50 (paperbound), 166 pp. Of this book the Quarterly Journal of Study on Alcohol says, "it is the most scholarly and factual exposition of knowledge of alcohol ever published by an adherent of the cause of abstinence."

****The two "tools for study"** mentioned above also are included in the Round Table Discussion Packet, "The Christian and Alcohol."

Social Action
NEWS LETTER

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